



## NEWSLETTER

Safety Council of Greater St. Louis Website: [www.stlsafety.org](http://www.stlsafety.org)

Fall 2004

### President's Message

Welcome to the Fall edition of the Safety Council of Greater St. Louis' newsletter. The Safety Council continues to strive to reduce preventable injuries and accidental deaths through safety education in the home, community, workplace, and on the roadways.

I am excited to announce the details of the St. Louis Safety and Health Conference that has been in the planning stages for months. This full day conference should provide a diverse learning experience for the attendees and further details are outlined in this newsletter. The cost is very reasonable especially considering the number of different break-out sessions, the reference material provided to attendees, and the meals and parking. In order to keep the costs as reasonable as possible for attendees, the Safety Council of Greater St. Louis is seeking sponsorship from local corporations. The monies will help off-set the costs to ensure that the Safety Council can continue to provide quality training at a reasonable cost. Corporate sponsors will be recognized at the event and in the newsletter. Good corporate citizens are the backbone of non-profit organizations such as ours. If your company would like to be a conference sponsor, please contact Leslie Foran at 314-621-9200.

David E. Costello  
President, Board of Directors

### St. Louis Safety & Health Conference November 3, 2004 at Saint Louis University

The Safety Council of Greater St. Louis has teamed up with the local OSHA office and with Saint Louis University to develop a Safety & Health Conference to be held on November 3, 2004. The conference will be held at the new Busch Center at the corner of Laclede and Grand on the Saint Louis University campus. Registrants will be able to pick 5 break-out sessions to attend throughout the day. Attendees will also receive a reference book entitled "Beyond Workers' Comp", published by the National Safety Council. The cost of registration also includes lunch and parking. A vendors display will also be available at the conference so attendees can see the latest goods that are available on the market.

The keynote speaker of the day is John Henshaw, Assistant Secretary of Labor. Other noted speakers of the day are Tim Daniels, Missouri Director of Homeland Security, and Charles Adkins, OSHA Regional Administrator, Region VII. Other timely topics that will be covered are NFPA 70E personal protective equipment, indoor air quality, powered industrial vehicles and OSHA's VPP program.

The cost to attend the conference is \$100 for members of the Safety Council of Greater St. Louis. Non-member cost is \$125 for early bird registrants (by Oct. 22) and \$150 for those registering after Oct. 22. For those who are interested in certification points, the conference has been awarded 1 CM for a full days attendance and 0.5 CEU.

If you are interested in attending this conference or displaying as a vendor, please contact the Safety Council at 314-621-9200 for details.

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## OSHA Publishes a Proposed Rule on Hexavalent Chromium

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) for occupational exposure to Hexavalent Chromium in the Oct. 4, 2004 **Federal Register**. OSHA is proposing three separate standards that cover exposure to hexavalent chromium (CrVI) in general industry, construction, and shipyards. The Agency is accepting public comments on the proposed standards until Jan. 3, 2005.

OSHA is proposing to lower its permissible exposure limit (PEL) for hexavalent chromium and for all CrVI compounds in construction, shipyards, and general industry to one microgram of CrVI per cubic meter of air as an 8-hour time weighted average. The proposed rule also includes provisions for employee protection such as preferred methods for controlling exposure, respiratory protection, protective work clothing and equipment, hygiene areas and practices, medical surveillance, hazard communication, and recordkeeping.

Hexavalent chromium (CrVI) compounds are widely used in the chemical industry in pigments, metal plating, and chemical synthesis as ingredients and catalysts. CrVI can also be produced when welding on stainless steel or CrVI-painted surfaces. The major health effects associated with exposure to CrVI include lung cancer, asthma, nasal septum ulcerations and perforations, skin ulcerations (or chrome holes), and allergic and irritant contact dermatitis.

Comments, whether submitted by mail, fax, or electronically, must be sent by Jan. 3, 2005. Three copies of written comments must be sent to the Docket Office, Docket H054A, Room N-2625, OSHA, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, D.C., 20210. OSHA plans to hold an informal public hearing in Washington, D.C., beginning on February 1, 2005. See OSHA's website at [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov) under OSHA news for more information.

## Cold Weather Check-ups

With the cold weather approaching, it is time to check a few important things around the house to ensure your family's safety. This is the time of year to check the furnace before you start it up for the winter season. Always ensure that the area around your furnace is free of debris and flammable liquids. Your chimney should also be thoroughly inspected and cleaned prior to use to ensure there are no cracks, blockage, and no build-up in the flue. Inadequately maintained equipment can lead to malfunctions that release carbon monoxide (CO). CO is a colorless, odorless gas. Exposure to high concentrations can result in flu-like symptoms and even death. A CO detector is an important safety device to have in your home.

## OCTOBER Fire Safety Month

October is fire safety month and everyone should take the time to review a few fire safety items in their home. Every home should have at least one fire extinguisher and it should be the right type of fire extinguisher. A multi-type, A-B-C fire extinguisher will extinguish wood, flammable liquids, and electrical type fires. The following shows the symbol that you would see on such a new ABC fire extinguisher:



It is also important to know how to use a fire extinguisher. Read the instructions for your fire extinguisher; an emergency is not the time to learn how to use your extinguisher. Many people are injured when trying to fight a fire with a household fire extinguisher. You should use a portable fire extinguisher only when the fire is not spreading and it is contained to a small area. You do not want to fight a fire if the room is filled with smoke. Make sure everyone has safely evacuated the house and the fire department has been called.

Every household must have a working smoke alarm; make sure to test the smoke alarms and change the batteries this month. Every household should also have a fire escape plan. This should also include a point outside where everyone meets to ensure that a quick headcount can be made.

Safety experts have offered the following tips for using an extinguisher:

- ❖ To operate a fire extinguisher, remember the word **PASS**:
  - ➔ **P**ull the pin, hold the extinguisher away from you and release the locking mechanism.
  - ➔ **A**im low, pointing the extinguisher at the base of the fire.
  - ➔ **S**queeze the lever slowly and evenly.
  - ➔ **S**weep the nozzle from side to side.
- ❖ Stand at least six feet away from the fire and have your back to a door so you can escape easily.

The Hanford Fire Department has a good website with detailed information on fire extinguishers. The website link for more information is:

<http://www.hanford.gov/fire/safety/extingrs.htm>

## 2004 Safety Council of Greater St. Louis Training Calendar

Oct. 18 – 21, 2004	POSH (Principles of Occupational Safety & Health) – Phase 1 of the Advanced Safety Certificate	Nov. 16, 2004	On-Site Emergency Response
Nov. 1-4, 2004	Safety Management Techniques – one of the key components for the National Safety Council Advanced Safety Certificate	Nov. 30-Dec. 3, 2004	Safety Training Methods – one of the key components for the National Safety Council Advanced Safety Certificate
Nov. 3, 2004	St. Louis Safety & Health Conference at Saint Louis University, Busch Center Special Speakers for the Event: John Henshaw, Assistant Secretary of Labor, Tim Daniels, Missouri Homeland Security Director, and Charles Adkins, Regional Administrator of OSHA	Dec. 6, 2004	Workplace Safety
		Dec. 10, 2004	Incident Investigation & Management Approach - one of the alternate components for the National Safety Council Advanced Safety Certificate
Nov. 9, 2004	Lift Truck Train the Trainer	March 11, 2005	Current Issues in Toxicology – Joint Symposium with the St. Louis American Industrial Hygiene Association
Nov. 10, 2004	Ergonomics		

The following classes are available, please call for the schedule:

Anger Management & Workplace Violence    DOT Entry Level Training & Specialty Classes    First Aid/CPR/AED/Bloodborne Pathogens  
Drug and Alcohol Classes    Driving Improvement Classes (on-going throughout the community)

*Call the Safety Council at 314-621-9200 to arrange for your occupational safety and health training programs.  
Many more occupational topics and driving classes are offered and available.*

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**RAPID EYE CHECK TRAINING IS AVAILABLE**  
CONTACT THE SAFETY COUNCIL AT 314-621-9200 TO SCHEDULE.

### Your 2004 Executive Board

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